Prognosis of fevers

on Prognosis 1

It has been remarked in the his=
=tory of Medicine, that in the early ages
of our Science the Office of the physician
and the priest were united in the
same person. To the latter, belonged
the ~~property~~ business of foretelling future events.
This, was applied to the issue of dis=
=eases as well as to the common
affairs of life. In modern times the pro=
=fessions have been seperated, but
superstition continues to demand
from physicians some knowledge
of the issue of diseases. Long and
patient habits of Observation have

V in which should be included the
ipse of a disease in life, and health, in another
or a chronic disease which is curable,
— in an incurable disease, and in death.
~~[The Greeks and Latins have designated
the latter terminations of disease by
two words of different import. These
are "kakon and thanapimon" — and
"malum, and lethale." The former
denoting a tedious or incurable
disease, and the latter death.]~~

N 2 It enables a physician to prevent
his patients ~~by the exercise of per~~ wasting
their property by fruitless attempts to
obtain relief from quacks in incurable
diseases, or to advise them to wait for the
slow, operations of time & nature in
order to cure them.

enabled physicians in many cases to ~~exercise what in times of ignorance has been called a prophecy~~ foretell the recovery or death of their patients with some degree of certainty. These observations have been recorded, and they now form a little system known by the name of the Prognosis of diseases. There is an advantage in studying the prognosis of diseases, for it enables a physician to lessen the distress which pain and sickness sometimes create, by informing his patients that they are not attended with danger, or when they are attended with alarming or

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fatal Symptoms it enables a physi=
=cian to lessen the Grief ~~of~~ which
~~the~~ death occasions in a family
by preparing the minds of his pati=
=ents gradually for it, for ~~Grief~~ the
~~like~~ mind likes the nerves, suffers
much less from unpleasant ima=
=pressions of all kinds when they
are applied gradually, than in a
sudden manner. The stroke in both
cases is weakened by the diluting which
time and habit make upon it. ~~and~~
4ly By knowing and predicting the probable or certain
issue of a disease, a physician may
enable a patient to ~~[illegible]~~ settle his

family ~~business~~ affairs, and to prepare for a future State. 4 5th and lastly a physician ~~never fails to~~ frequently gains more reputation by his predictions when they are verified by events, than by ~~curing~~ curing the most violent or complicated disease. Public opinion in these cases ~~justifies the~~ justifies the old saying of "Learned men know what was - Weak men know what is, but Wise men only know what is to come".

I have introduced the Prognosis in this place because it has been chiefly confined to the diseases of which we have been treating, that is Fevers. In the prosecution of it, I shall

of Prognosis in fevers. In treating upon this subject I shall first mention the good and bad signs ~~first, the signs of life & death~~ which are common to the forms & states of fever that have been the subjects of former lectures, and hereafter mention the signs ~~of life and death~~ in all those states of fever which have not been included in this general history.

Before I proceed to enumerate those signs I shall deliver a few general remarks, to which I solicit your particular attention. They are intended to clear away some of the rubbish which has long clouded this subject, and which has contributed very

much to lessen both its certainty & usefulness.

1 The signs of life and death in fevers vary in different Countries, and in the same Country in different seasons. Of this I have mentioned some striking proofs in the histories of the yellow fever as it has appeared in preceding years in Philadelphia.

2 These signs vary in fevers of the same nature but of different grades. Thus deafness is a favorable sign in a mild & chronic bilious fever, but a bad sign in a yellow fever. Thus too blisters (after being nearly healed) when they become suddenly inflamed and exquisitely sensible afford a favorable prognosis in the former, but an alarming sign

in the latter grade of bilious fever.

3 There is a difference in the issue of the same signs in Adults & Children. In the former, a black Vomiting, half closed eyes, and cold breath are generally fatal symptoms in a yellow fever, but Children frequently survive them all. I have ascribed this to two causes, 1 to the greater tenacity of life in Children than in Adults. 2 to a peculiarity of this peculiarity in the constitution of Children in our pathology, & 2 by the their diseases not being aggravated by the fear of dying or the dread of fretfulness, or by their knowledge of the fatal tendency of the bad symptoms of their

V 6. & lastly, there is a difference in the issue of the same signs in slaves and freemen. The former often succumb under a force of disease from which the latter recover. I ~~have~~ repeatedly observed this to be the case in the ~~Haiti~~ military hospitals of the United States under the same circumstances of accommodation & attendance.

(T.)

Diseases. The sight of the black vomiting has accelerated death in many instances in adult patients in the yellow fever.

4 There is a difference in the issue of the same signs in middle life & old age. The ~~same~~ symptoms which are not alarming in the former period of life portend death in the latter.

5 There is a difference in the issue of the same signs in persons of robust and slender constitutions, also ~~of~~ in the two sexes - in persons descended from long lived and short lived ancestors - in sober and intemperate people, and in persons of a fearful and irritable temper, and persons of an opposite character.

These remarks being premised I

V For example a fever which follows a great & debilitating affliction of any kind, great & long protracted labor, or great & protracted terror or fear ~~are~~ is generally attended with great danger.

proceed to enumerate the good and bad signs ~~of life &c~~ ~~Death~~ taken from the type, or general character of fevers.

1 The violence, danger, and the duration of a fever may often be predicted from the violence and duration of its premissing & exciting causes.

2 Fevers which attack suddenly, without any premonitory symptoms are always ~~dangerous~~ attended with danger.

3 Fevers which creep on slowly for days or weeks together, are generally tedious & not without danger.

4 A fever of great violence coming on without a Chill is alarming. It shows the disease to be insolated in the blood vessels. It is less so when a chill succeeds bleeding, or the operation of a purge. It shows the disease to be diffused to the muscles & nerves.

5 The Danger from fever is great in proportion as the intercourse between the different Systems is broken, and thereby the Unity and strength of the efforts of nature and of the operations of medicines destroyed. We see this in a remarkable manner in the hectic fever. The blood vessels alone are dis-eased here, while all the other systems are in a passive or healthy state. We see it likewise in certain spasmodic states of fever in which the blood vessels are pas-sive and idle. The more a fever invades all the systems to a certain degree lessen the Danger, provided they are not affected beyond the point of reaction. The burden of a fever is thereby more easily borne, and nature cooperates most in reach-ing cases in curing the fever. A good

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4 Appetite and regular bowels - ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible] and~~ with retire muscles which show
all those parts of the body to be in a
sound state, ~~[illegible]~~ indicate a deep seated
and dangerous disease in the blood-
-vessels. We sometimes observe sickness,
vomiting, lax belly and weak ener-
-vous action to succeed bleeding. These
are favourable signs. for they show the
disease to ~~be~~ have passed from its
exclusive seat in the blood vessels, & ~~to~~
~~be diffused~~ of course to be weakened by
being diffused thro' other systems of the
body. -

6 Paroxysms that are worse on <u>even</u>, than
on <u>odd</u> ~~days~~ or critical days are always
bad. Fevers in which this is the case

generally terminate on an even day, & vice versa.

7 Recoveries from fevers which are sudden, and followed with a sudden restoration of strength, and high spirits with a regular pulse are always to be suspected of danger. They frequently indicate a latent or a new disease. To this remark there is one exception, that is when the recovery has been produced by a sudden energy of the mind. In these cases the natural tendency of fevers to a limited duration seems to be broken, as it is by copious depletion on the first day of the attack.

8 It is a bad sign for patients to say "they feel too well", and to discover marks of greater composure, or cheerfulness

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5 than accords with their previous Dan=
=gers and distrefs, in the malignant state
of fevers.

9 Chills which occur in the close of
chronic fevers are generally favorea=
=ble. They shew an intermission to
have taken place, and they indicate a
revival of excitability, or of reaction in
the System.

10 In Intermittents, procrastinating
fits are favorable. Anticipating fits
are less so. – They indicate an increase
of morbid excitement. To this remark
there are some exceptions, for the danger
from the increase of morbid excitement
may always be obviated by depletion,
and the weakness from procrastinating

11th V Violent fevers are generally attended with great dangers in pregnancy, from the System being under the stimulus of two diseases.

fits by stimulating remedies. —

Let us next attend ~~to~~ more particu=
=ly to the signs of a favourable, or
unfavourable issue of fevers as they
appear in the Body and mind.

and 1 in the Body.

In enumerating these signs it will be dif=
=ficult to fix upon a natural order. I
shall mention them as nearly as possible in
that order in which they usually attract
the attention of physicians.

1 In the blood vessels. — A pulse preter=
=naturally slow is unfavourable — more ~~as~~
~~intermitting pulse is life to~~ especially when
it occurs in Children in whom it indi=
=cates a cephallic affection. as inter=
=mitting

V It sometimes continues from habit during the whole time of convalescence. A dissection related by Dr Heberden shows that it existed during a whole life without any mark of disease in the heart or arteries. In such persons the pulse often becomes regular in sickness.

VI. especially when it is both quick and frequent, and continues so with little or no change for two or three days. I always dread to feel such a pulse. There are few recoveries from fevers with it. — I have called it a <u>rapid</u> to distinguish it from a frequent pulse.

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pulse is alarming. The more numerous the intermissions are in a given number of strokes, the greater the danger. It is most unfavourable when the intermissions occur after every 2nd or 3rd stroke. The danger depends with the diminution of the intermissions in the pulse. V. A pulse above 120 strokes in a minute is alarming, VI. There are few recoveries when it beats 180 strokes in a minute. I once felt it 204 strokes in a minute in a child in Hydrocephalus internus. It died soon afterwards. Dr White in his fascicuy says no recoveries take place in horses when the pulse is at a 100 in a

V Convalescence after the solution of a fever without a preternatural frequency of pulse is alarming. It shows a latent and suffocated dis=
=ease.

minute. The ratio in this case com=
=pared with its healthy pulsations is
nearly the same as in the human
species.

A pulse perfectly natural in force &
frequency in a malignant fever, is
always a very alarming sign.

In diseases of the breast, Dr. Stoll
says the pulse is less to be relied on than
of any other part of the body. The
pulmonary system in these cases
becomes insolated, or cut off from
its sympathy with the aortic sys=
=tem of blood vessels. I shall hereafter
say it should not be relied upon in
many of the diseases of the brain.

I formerly rejected all the predictions
of Solano as to the issue of fevers

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from the states of the pulse.

Hemorrhages in the beginning of fevers are less alarming than in their close. They are most dangerous when they come from the stomach, liver, lungs, kidneys and gums. They are least so when they come from the nose, uterus and hemorrhoidal vessels. Few persons recover when blood issues spontaneously from an old sore, from an orifice that had healed in a vein, and from the eyes, and the skin.

II Of the ~~signs of dis~~ good & bad signs of fevers as they occur in parts that are obvious to the sight.

V Skin is a bad sign when accom=
=panied with the common Symp=
=toms of a violent paroxysm of
fever.

Convalescence after the Crisis of a fever
without some heat upon the Skin is
unfavourable. —

upon the skin

Partial heat, or partial coldness are unfavorable. Cold hands and feet with great heat upon the breast and head are more so. A coldness at the wrists ~~with~~ while the hands are warm, is generally fatal. I have never seen a recovery where this has been the case. Long protracted chillness is alarming. Universal coldness ~~if often~~ is unfavorable especially if it continues for two or three days. A sensation of burning called by the ancients "calor mordens" is always alarming. It is most so when diffused all over the skin. A natural temperature of the skin. Eruptions ~~and~~ whether of a purulent nature, or simple efflorescences upon

V The drying up of an old sore is unfavourable. The return of its dis=
=charge is favourable. —

A blister not rising, or ~~becoming~~ the part ~~soon up~~ to which it is had been ap=
=plied and risen, becoming soon pale and healing, is unfavourable.

A swelling of the belly particularly about the pubis is unfavourable.

~~A swelling of the face, hands and feet is favourable in several of the forms of fever. Sir John Pringle tells us that five out of six recovered of all those soldiers whose heads swelled in the Camp fever.~~

~~A constant sneezing or hawking and spitting is favourable.~~

8 the skin are favourable in every
stage of a fever. Sores about the
mouth, upon the lips, & tip of
the tongue are favourable when
they appear after the 3d; 5th; or 7th
day. They are less so when they
appear in the early stage of a
fever. They are always unfavoura-
-ble when they ~~appear~~ occur in the
pharynx - larynx - oesophagus, or
about the root of the tongue. They
show the centrifugal powers of
the system to be in a less vigo=
=rous state than when they are
thrown upon the tip & lips of the tongue or upon the surface of the body.

2 upon the Tongue.
a White tongue indicates a typhoid
fever and is seldom alarming. a
yellow tongue indicates the presence
of bile in the stomach, and is seldom
unfavorable. a red, and smooth tongue
is generally a fatal symptom. so is
a black tongue provided it be Dry
at the same time. I once saw the
the tongue of a black color for 15
Days in a Rheumatism, and yet
the patient recovered. the tongue
During this time was uniformly
moist. Take care not to be imposed
upon by a Darkness induced upon the
tongue by chewing tobacco by drinking
claret by eating black jellies, or suf=
=fering liquorice to dissolve upon

It is difficult to account for this black color of the tongue. Mr. Raffinel has mentioned a fact in his history of the effects of Upas upon animal bodies which may assist us in explaining it. He tells us the more respiration was intercepted by the action of his poison, the darker the tongue and the gums became. ~~The black color of the tongue and gums~~ From this it would seem ~~to be more~~ ~~how connected~~ that ~~their~~ natural red color was some how connected with the oxygenation of the blood, and that they became dark, from this ~~process~~ process upon the blood being impaired by the want of natural respiration. What makes this opinion more probable is a fact related by Mr. Boyle. He says the tongue of a Viper became black after being confined an hour & 1/4 in the exhausted receiver of an air pump.

of it. A green color sometimes appears ~~upon the tongue~~ upon the tongue. The only case I ever saw of it terminated fatally. It ~~Perhaps~~ would seem as if the tongue partook of all the colors of the bile, that is yellow - black and green. Perhaps the green color arose from bile originally yellow stagnating upon the tongue, for I once saw bile perished up of a yellow color becoming green by remaining four & twenty hours in a bowl exposed to the action of the air upon it.

Besides ~~the foul matters~~ bile, other foul matters lodge upon the tongue. Some of them are no doubt the

products of a morbid secretion by the vessels of the tongue, but they cannot all be derived from this source, for we see them upon the teeth, ~~gums and lips by which~~ where we cannot suppose them to be secreted. They appear to be a kind of foot formed by the stomach and ~~the~~ blood, and assisted by the tongue in their passage out of the body. The more they abound upon the tongue and the teeth, the greater is the danger from the fever. Bordue describes a ~~white~~ matter upon the tongue ~~which~~ resembling the white of an egg which he says is favorable. I have never seen it.

A dry tongue is always unfavorable. It is the effect generally of a want of secretion in the vessels of the tongue

which causes it to partake of the same dryness which pervades the skin. It is however sometimes induced by the rapidity of respiration which dissipates the moisture of the tongue, — ~~and more and there then~~ also — by the patient sleeping, or lying with his mouth open, ~~also~~ and by the premature use of stimulating medicines. I once attended a lady in an inflamm.n of the liver in whom the tongue became dry only when she lay upon her right side. Mrs Pritchell.

A tongue, after being dry, becoming suddenly and universally moist, is less favourable than when the moisture passes gradually from its tip & edges

to every part of it, for which reason those extremities should always be first inspected, or touched with the fingers when we look for favorable signs from it.

A tongue preternaturally hot is unfavorable, but a tongue preter=naturally cold is generally the prem==ror of death.

A natural tongue in a malignant fever is a most alarming sign. It shows the disease to be so concentrated in vital parts as not to be able to diffuse itself in a centrifugal direction.

It would seem as if hypocrisy in the signs of diseases, was as bad as in morals. A natural pulse - a natural temperature of the skin, the natural

tongue with disorganized perishing viscera, resemble a placid & smiling counte=
=nance and a flattering tongue with a heart rankling with malice and revenge. — They alike discover all natural affections to be dissolved both in the ~~mind~~ body & mind.

A livid color of the ends of the nails and fingers is unfavourable. A red color of them is favourable.

3 ~~of~~ In the Countenance.

A frown, a Countenance preternaturally placid, and a face suddenly assuming an Ancestor which had never been perceived before, ~~all~~ are all unfavourable. The last shews such a waste or extrusion of the ~~flesh~~ fat & flesh of

V goes further, and says no mercurio
take place until the whole body
discovers signs of emaciation. He
adds however that emaciation about
the navel & pubis only, are bad signs.

the face as to render ~~its~~ the shape of the bones perceptible and in this the resemblance of families ~~up~~ perhaps more generally consists than in any other parts of the body.

A peevish countenance, and a face that had been previously red, becoming gradually pale, and somewhat reduced in its flesh are always favourable. I have seldom seen a complete or safe recovery ~~with a~~ from a violent fever until this change in the face had taken place. Celsus

The Hippocratic face as it is called is generally a fatal sign. It consists in a sharp nose, hollow eyes, fallen temples, cold contracted ears with

[Great emaciation about the navel and pubis Celsus says is a bad sign.]

12 with their lobes invested, – the skin of the forehead dry, – stretched, and hard, and the whole face, pale livid, or black, or of a bad color". While I assert that this change in the face is generally fatal in fevers, I would remark that it sometimes occurs in a paroxysm of Asthma without being followed by a fatal issue.

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~~4 In the lungs and the passes~~. I shall first mention the signs of life and death in the senses as least organes, and then as the mediums this which sensations are communicated to the brain.

4 In the muscles. Great muscular weakness frequently occurs in the beginning of

fevers of great violence without much danger. It is generally removed by depleting remedies, for it arises from a depressed or oppressed state of the system. In the close of fevers the danger is great in proportion to the degrees of debility. ~~though th~~ It shows itself in tremors of the limbs and involuntary motions of the tendons, called Subsultus tendinum, in tremors of the tongue, or an inability to protrude it, in a falling of the jaw, in a difficulty in lifting ~~to lift the~~ the arm when required by a physician to feel the pulse - in sliding down in the bed, which the ~~in elevation~~ legs are in vain elevated to prevent, and in a disposition to faint when raised from the bed.

A priapism sometimes precedes both recovery, ~~but it is more generally~~ and death according to the state of the system. ~~It precedes death in the case~~ now and then it precedes recovery. ~~Hist~~ In the yellow fever in the year 1793 in this city. Dr Hallet mentions an instance of its continuing two hours after death. Mahomed is said to have died with this symptom. It favoured in his followers the idea he had inspired of his sensual paradise. I took notice formerly that it sometimes occurred in persons who were hanged, but it is generally the effect of a convulsive struggle of the last remains of excitement to that part.

Convulsions in the beginning of fevers, are alarming, but generally fatal in their last stage. — A fever introduced by convulsions is often tedious & now and then ends in Hydrocephalus.

A Hiccup is always an unfavourable symptom in fevers.

A gnashing of the teeth is always a sign of great danger.

Lying upon either of the sides after lying only upon the back, is a good sign. It shows an increase of muscular strength. — V

III Of ~~Hard~~ favourable & unfavourable signs, as they occur in the nerves & senses.

Insensibility to cold, to great heat, ~~and to~~ burns, and to blisters is always unfavourable. A sudden restoration of

~~it~~ sensibility to as to feel pain from the touch of the hand, or from the weight of bed clothes, is favourable. There is ~~but~~ an exception to this remark in the yellow fever, in which patients cannot bear to have the limbs ~~touched~~ to which blisters have been applied, touched by the hand of a physician. In common fevers, the return not only of sensibility, but of an inflammation upon the places to which blisters have been applied, is always favourable.

Sneezing and gaping are favourable. They show the return of the parts concerned in them, to their old habits of sensibility. ~~For~~ ~~the same reason the return of an old pain, or of an old chronic disease are always favourable~~

[illegible]